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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/505,598	02/16/2000	Arnold M. Escano	ENDOV-48232	6592

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FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP
HOWARD HUGHES CENTER
6060 CENTER DRIVE
TENTH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90045

EXAMINER

BLANCO, JAVIER G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3738	5

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/505,598	ESCANO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Javier G. Blanco	3738

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 May 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Quiachon et al. (US 5,628,783). Quiachon et al. disclose an apparatus and method for intraluminally delivering or deploying a bifurcated graft proximate the abdominal aortic bifurcation. The apparatus and method meet all the limitation of claims 1-40 (see whole text and Figures 1-36).

3. Claims 1-6, 11-13, 15, 19, 21, 25-31, 33, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Piplani et al. (US 5,489,295). Regarding claim 1, Piplani et al. disclose an apparatus and method for intraluminally deploying a bifurcated graft 20 into a lumen formed by a wall proximate a vascular bifurcation having an aneurysm. The bifurcated graft 20 comprises main cylindrical body 112, first tubular leg 116, and second tubular leg 117. A main catheter or capsule catheter 26, having a diameter ranging from 6-9 mm, houses the bifurcated graft, a set of positioning mechanisms, and a set attaching mechanisms (see Abstract; column 2, lines 7-46; column 3, lines 7-9; Figure 1). Regarding claims 2, 5, 6, and 11, the attaching mechanisms include expandable anchor or spring attachment means 126, 127, and 163 (having hook-like vessel engaging elements 141) attached to main cylindrical body 112, to first tubular leg 116, and to second tubular leg 117 respectively (see column 5, lines 29-67; column 10, lines 21-35; Figures 4, 8, and 17). Regarding claim 4, the attaching mechanisms also include a balloon

catheter assembly 71 capable of expanding the expandable spring attachment means (see column 2, lines 19-34; Figures 1 and 5). Regarding claim 3, the attaching mechanisms further include a stabilization wire 89 and a stabilization button 106 carried by the tubular member or catheter shaft 72 to constrict the expandable anchor in an unexpanded condition (see column 9, lines 2-10; Figure 5). Regarding claims 12 and 15, the set of positioning mechanisms includes a main guidewire 91 configured as a stiffened rod (see Figure 1). Regarding claims 13, 19, and 21, the set of positioning mechanisms of second tubular leg 117 includes a guidewire 196 that could be removably attached to second tubular leg 117 (see column 10, lines 9-26; Figure 18), secondary catheters (capsule catheter 161 and balloon catheter 162) encompassing at least a portion of the second tubular leg 117, and an expandable spring mechanism 163 at least partially encompassed by the secondary catheter (see column 10, lines 9-35; Figure 6). The attaching mechanism of secondary catheter includes a stabilization button 216 carried by the tubular member 176 to constrict the expandable anchor 163 in an unexpanded condition (see column 10, lines 21-35; Figure 6).

Response to Arguments

4. Regarding 102(b) rejection over Quiachon et al., Applicant's arguments filed May 7, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive:
 - a. Regarding claim 1, Applicant argues that Quiachon et al. does not disclose that the main catheter has an inner diameter less than seven millimeters. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Column 9, lines 37-51; column 12, lines 45-55; and column 15, lines 32-44 disclose the claimed diameter of the main catheter.

b. Regarding claims 23 and 38, Applicant argues that Quiachon et al. does not disclose a first and second release wire. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Column 20, lines 43-47 disclose a second release wire (see also Figures 27, 29, and 31).

c. Regarding claim 37, Applicant argues that Quiachon et al. does not disclose that the third catheter is folded and contained entirely within the first catheter. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Figures 1, 8, and 29; column 22, lines 46-64; and column 23, lines 41-46 disclose a third catheter folded and contained entirely within the first catheter.

5. Regarding 102(b) rejection over Piplani et al., Applicant's arguments filed May 7, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive:

a. Regarding claim 1, Applicant argues that Piplani et al. "on the other hand discloses that the second leg or contralateral member has separate attachment means that are later deployed". Examiner respectfully disagrees. The broad claim language of claim 1 requires, among other things, "a set of attaching mechanisms capable of attaching the superior member to the superior vessel, the ipsilateral member to the ipsilateral vessel, and the contralateral member to the contralateral vessel". Piplani et al.'s patent still reads on this claim language. Even if the contralateral member attachment means are later deployed, Piplani et al.'s system still reads on the claimed system. See also 102(b) rejection above.

b. Regarding claim 25, Applicant argues that Piplani et al. does not disclose a first and a second release wire. Examiner respectfully disagrees. From 102(b) rejection above: "Regarding claims 12 and 15, the set of positioning mechanisms includes a main guidewire 91 configured as a stiffened rod (see Figure 1). Regarding claims 13, 19, and 21, the set of positioning mechanisms of second tubular leg 117 includes a guidewire 196 that could be removably attached to second

tubular leg 117 (see column 10, lines 9-26; Figure 18), secondary catheters (capsule catheter 161 and balloon catheter 162) encompassing at least a portion of the second tubular leg 117, and an expandable spring mechanism 163 at least partially encompassed by the secondary catheter (see column 10, lines 9-35; Figure 6). The attaching mechanism of secondary catheter includes a stabilization button 216 carried by the tubular member 176 to constrict the expandable anchor 163 in an unexpanded condition (see column 10, lines 21-35; Figure 6)."

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javier G. Blanco whose telephone number is 703-605-4259. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.), first Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on 703-308-2111. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.



JGB

July 29, 2002



David H. Willse
Primary Examiner